

## ON A NEW OXYURID FROM A SQUIRREL.

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The Nematode worms described in this paper were obtained from the intestine of a squirrel. The material consisted of five females and only one male.

### ***Latibuccana funambulensis*, gen. et sp. nov.**

*Description*.—The worms are comparatively thin and elongated. Body tapers at both ends. The anterior end is curved ventrally. The posterior end or the tail, in both the sexes (Figs. *d* and *e*) terminates in a finely pointed process. The cuticle is finely striated transversely and it is without plectanæ. Total length of the male is 12.5 mm. and its maximum breadth 0.32 mm. Total length of the female is 20.0 mm. to 22.5 mm. and maximum breadth 0.48 mm. to 0.5 mm. The oesophagus with the bulb (Fig. *b*) measures 1.74 mm. in length in male and 1.94 mm. to 2.1 mm. in female. The oesophageal bulb (Fig. *b*) is separated from the rest of the oesophagus by a constriction and contains the valvular apparatus. The bulb measures 0.23 mm. in length and 0.17 mm. in diameter in male and 0.25 mm. to 0.29 mm. in length and 0.18 mm. in diameter in female. The cervical alae (Fig. *a*) are broad and extend to 0.78 mm. from the anterior end in male and 0.92 to 1.0 mm. in female. The maximum breadth of the alae is 0.06 mm. in male and 0.085 mm. in female. Lateral phalanges are absent.

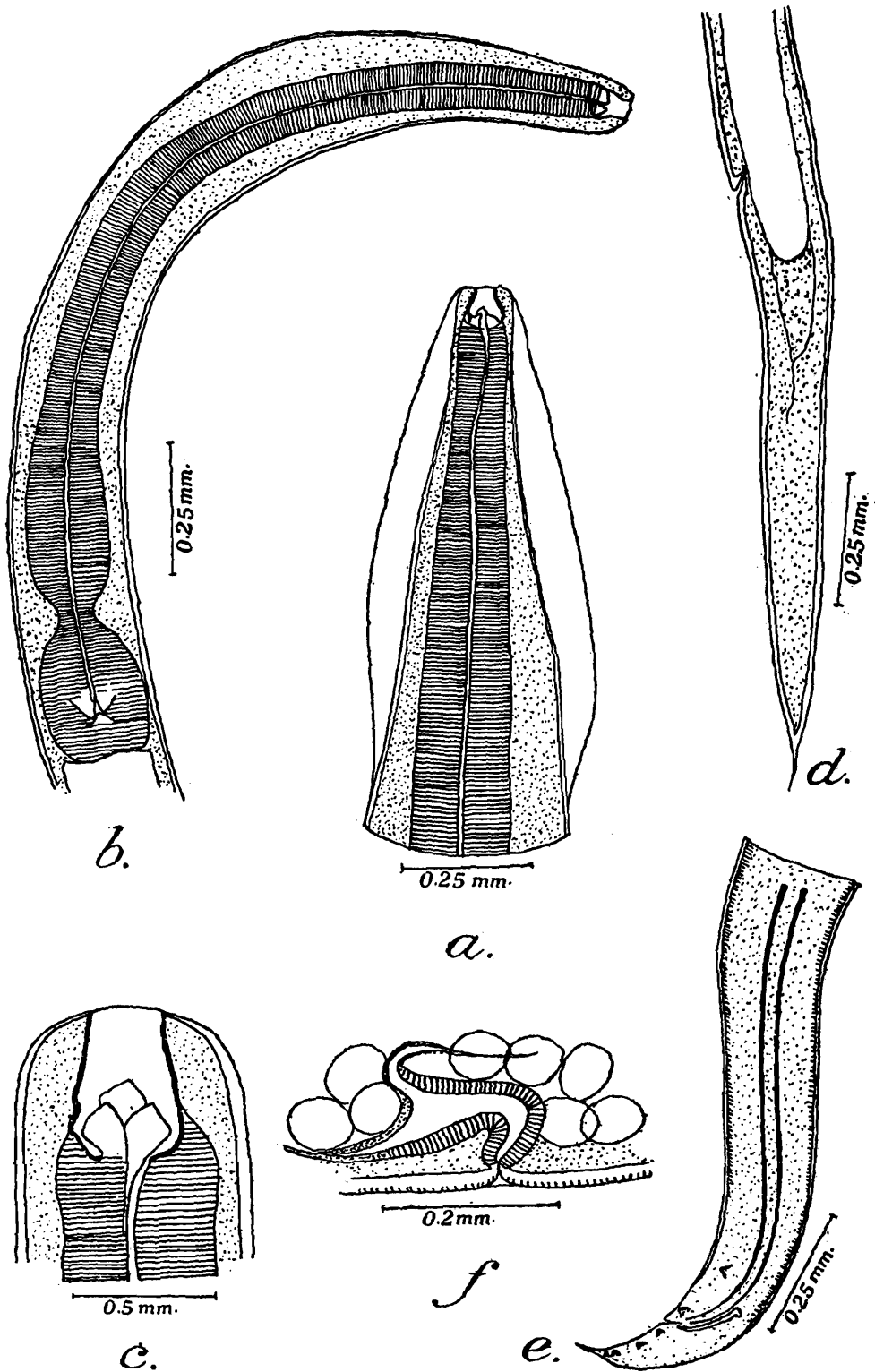
At the anterior extremity is the oral aperture (Fig. *c*) surrounded by two indistinct lips. The buccal cavity is large, 0.059 mm. in depth and 0.043 mm. in diameter in female. It is lined by a very thick layer of chitin which gives it an appearance of a buccal capsule. It contains three prominent teeth projecting into it at its base. A short pharynx is present at the commencement of the oesophagus.

*Male*: The posterior extremity (Fig. *e*) is curved ventrally. The caudal alae are absent. There are six pairs of sessile papillae of which two pairs are pre-anal and the remaining four pairs post-anal. There are two equal, thin and elongated spicules, measuring 0.90 mm. in length. The gubernaculum is short, thick and curved.

*Female*: Vulva is situated in front of the middle of the body (Fig. *f*) at the junction of the anterior two-fifth and the posterior three-fifth. It is a transversely depressed slit. Vagina is elongated, muscular and directed anteriorly. The two uterine tubes (Fig. *f*) are opposed. Eggs are thick-shelled, contain an embryo and measure 0.087 mm.  $\times$  0.061 mm.

*Discussion*.—Referring to the classification given by Yorke and Maplestone (1926) this worm belongs to the family Oxyuridae Cobbold 1864, because of the presence of an oesophageal bulb, double uterine tubes and the absence of the precloacal musculature or sucker. It

belongs to the sub-family Cosmocercinae Railliet 1916, because of the presence of two equal spicules and a gubernaculum.



*Latibuccana funambulensis*, gen. et sp. nov..

*a.* Ventral view of anterior part with cervical alae; *b.* Lateral view of anterior part with oesophagus; *c.* Anterior part showing buccal cavity and three teeth; *d.* Lateral view of caudal extremity of female; *e.* Lateral view of caudal extremity of male; *f.* Lateral view of female genitalia to show the vulva and opposed uterine tubes.

The sub-family Cosmocercinae, contains at present seven genera which can be easily diagnosed by the key given by Azim (1931), but

the worm described in this paper cannot be assigned to any known genus of this sub-family though it comes nearer to the genus *Alaplectana* Azim 1931 on account of the presence of broad cervical alae. But it differs from it in having indistinct lips, a wide buccal cavity, in having the vulva situated in front of the middle of the body and in the absence of pedunculated papillae. I, therefore, propose the new genus *Latibuccana* for the reception of this species and designate *Latibuccana funambulensis*, nov. as the type-species.

*Generic characters.*—Cosmocercinae; Lips two indistinct; buccal capsule present with three teeth at its base; a short pharynx present; oesophagus with a posterior bulb separated by a constriction; cuticle free from plectanes; cervical alae prominent; tail in both sexes finely pointed; male without caudal alae and pedunculated papillae; vulva in front of the middle of the body; eggs contain embryo.

In Rodents.

*Specific diagnosis.*—Length of male 12.5 mm., maximum breadth 0.32 mm.; length of female 21.25 mm. and maximum breadth 0.49 mm.; oesophagus with the bulb in male 1.74 mm. long and 2.02 mm. in female; length and diameter of the bulb in male 0.23 mm. and 0.17 mm. and in female 0.27 mm. and 0.18 mm.; cervical alae extend to 0.78 mm. from the anterior end in male and 0.96 mm. in female; maximum breadth of the alae in male 0.06 mm. and 0.085 mm. in female; buccal cavity 0.059 mm. in depth and 0.043 mm. in diameter; spicules 0.90 mm. in length; vulva at the junction of anterior 2/5th and posterior 3/5th; eggs in uterus measure 0.087 mm.  $\times$  0.061 mm.

*Host.*—*Funambulus pennanti pennanti* Wroughton.

*Habitat.*—Intestine.

*Locality.*—Nagpur, C. P., India.

The type-specimen is deposited in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

#### REFERENCES.

- Azim, M. Abdel (1931). A Note on *Alaplectana* Nov. Gen. Sub-family Cosmocercinae Railliet, 1916, Family Oxyuridae Cobbold, 1864. *Ann. Trop. Med. Parasit.* XXV, pp. 373-376.
- Yorke, W & Maplestone, P. A. (1926). *The Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates*, pp. 205-211.